

Burk Family

Susan Flower
605 Cooley
Blue Rapids KS 66411

Special Collections

REFERENCE
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February 18, 1999

Hello! I have been corresponding with Katherine Speer of Estes Park CO for a few years. Formerly she was a Terre Hautean.

On the surface your genealogical quest would appear to be rather easy when in fact it is difficult even though you have some clues about your Burks, Burkes.

I did find your Cornelius Burk, physician, on p. 195 of the 1850 Pierson Twp., Vigo County Indiana census. He didn't own any land. His wife Mary, 28, was born in Alabama but by 1844 daughter Gabriella was born in Indiana. Since this family moved to Hannibal MO by 1860 I am wondering what, if anything, you were able to learn by contacting the Hannibal library.

Did Dr. Cornelius Burk die in Hannibal? Are there any published biographical sketches of him in the local histories there? You mentioned that Gabrilla married her distant Burke cousin Thos. Jefferson Burke who "grew up across the River." Do you mean across the Mississippi River in Western Illinois?

Thomas Burk(e) was a common name even in 1850. There were many as head of households, plus juveniles. When I checked the 1860 Every Name Indiana Census Index (on microfiche) there wasn't any Cornelius and Gabrilla Burk(e) so I must assume that they had left Vigo County for Hannibal MO between 1850 and 1860.

Neither are mentioned in any Vigo County records that I could find. I checked indexes to Vigo County Histories and our Burk(e) surname files. Dr. Cornelius Burk isn't included in Combs' History of Medicine in Vigo County, Indiana nor is he listed as a landowner on the 1858 Vigo County plat maps.

Thomas Jefferson Burke is even more of an enigma. I hope that death certificates are available for Thomas J. and Gabrilla Burk in Morris County, Kansas (or wherever they died) and that you have copies. These would list the parents and their birthplace. You need all the documentation you can get - and obituaries if they are available. I hope there are Missouri obituaries for Dr. and Mrs. Cornelius Burke. Perhaps they bought land there. Are they listed in early Hannibal City Directories?

There is a 21 year-old Thomas Burk on p. 483 of the 1860 Vigo County Census but he was born in Ireland so I doubt that he's the right Thomas that married Gabrilla. Then there is a Thomas Burke on p. 591 but he was only one year old.

Susan Flower
Blue Rapids KS
February 18, 1999

Let me know if you get any additional clues from the 1860 Vigo census you ordered. I think you need to exhaust all sources around Hannibal MO before you investigate the elusive "Indiana" years.

Thanks for your willingness to contribute to the library but I'm not sending any copies (15¢ per page plus postage), there isn't any charge.

David N. Lewis
SpC Research Ass't

Recd 1-29-99

SASE

605 Cooley
Blue Rapids, Ks. 66411
January 27, 1999

Dear Sir;

I was given your resource center by Kate Speer who found me on the internet as a possible help to me..

We live in a very rural area with no resource center within 75 miles and I am disabled so cannot travel an distance to research..About my only help is on the internet which has been helpful in some of my other research..

I have been chasing my BURKE line for about 35 years now without much success. I will give you all of the information that I have and if you can help me it will be very muchly appreciated..I know that here in our little town our library and the historical society 10 miles from here have people who do a bit of research for them..as I have helped several people with look-ups in newspaper and cemetery records that are local..

I will be most happy to give a small contribution to you to help with the cause there in Vigo Co., Indiana..

My information:

Cornelius Burke was a physician according to the census of 1850..At that time he was 30 years old and that would put him born around 1820. His wife was listed as Mary with three children Gabrilla age 6, Charles age 3 and Amanda 6 months.. Also the name Burke was spelled without the 'e'. But I'm sure that this is THE one..as I'm sure of Gabrilla's birthdate..... Now here is where the confusion comes into place....Gabrilla married Thomas Jefferson BURKE in July 1864 in Hannibal, Mo. But I was also given the information that Thomas Jefferson BURKE was also born in Terre Haute, In... They were said to be cousins (apparently not too close as the family seems to be normal) and grew up across the River from one another.. Thomas Jefferson's father's name was told to me to be Thomas....Thomas Jefferson BURKE was born March 25, 1838..

Thomas J. and Gabrilla migrated to Kansas after their marriage in Missouri. They settled in Morris Co., Kansas where they are both buried and they had eight children..Thomas Jefferson served in the Civil war and I do have his records from there..

I have ordered the 1860 Vigo Co., Census on microfilm so will check that source for further information. —

→ p. 591

I have enclosed a SASE for your reply..Please if you possibly can help me with my research..I know the information has to be there someplace..

Sincerely,,, Susan Flower

P.S. email susanflower@hotmail.com

1860 - p. 591 - Burke $\Rightarrow$ NOT THE RIGHT ONE
Vigo THOS is only 1 in 1860!

1850 - Cornelius Burk - 195 (Pierson Tp.)
Vigo

The right Burkes aren't in Darrel's Index, or in Vigo Co.
Marriages, 1818 - 1920, or Markle Cem. R.

Dr. Cornelius Burk isn't in Combs' Medical History,
the 1858 Plat., or the Pound & Kester Book.

He had no real estate in 1850!!

Nothing in Bask or Burke family files.

1860 - Every Name Index - X
No Gabriella or Cornelius

Research on:

Claude Oscar Burk
(His dad was Pres. Burk.)

(1882 - June 4, — c. 1973)

Not in Vigo Co. in 1920
because he was in Detroit

Edwina Granados

15 Euclid Av.

Battle Creek, MI

49017

Burk Family

Edwina Granados
15 Euclid Ave.
Battle Creek MI 49017

May 26, 1993

After receiving your telephone inquiry regarding a Claude Oscar Burk who was born on or about June 4, 1882, I started checking the 1900 Indiana Soundex to look for such a young man who had a father named George. I think I explained over the telephone that the 1910 Indiana census isn't indexed and in the 1920 census you told me he was in Detroit. (Your local library may have the 1920 Michigan census.)

Well, the only Claude (in this case "Claudie") Burk in the 1900 Indiana census having a father named George was a Claudie Burk who lived in Eugene twp., Vermillion county Indiana, Enumeration District #9 and sheet #9. This one was born in June 1883 and was 16 though very close to his 17th birthday. His mother was Martha.

I am enclosing a photocopy and am wondering if this may be the Claude Burk(s) you seek.

Do you have a death certificate for Claude Oscar Burk, who died c. 1973? It should have the names of his parents.

David N. Lewis
SpC Research Ass't

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March 15, 1953.



Mr. and Mrs. Charles Clifton Burk, 128 Bourne avenue, who will observe their golden wedding anniversary Sunday, March 15, with open house from 1 until 4 p.m.

VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA